

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a local area network, comprising:

receiving the data from a content provider via the wide area network at a digital routing device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, wherein the data is being destined for the computer system located on the local area network;

the routing device receiving a signal, separate from the received data, indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system with at a minimum guaranteed quality of service(QoS); ~~wherein the signal is received from a network control system server and wherein the data is received by a separate content provider;~~

the routing device initiating a QoS session between the routing device and the computer system in response to receiving the signal; and

~~formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at the requested guaranteed quality of service; and~~

the routing device sending the packets that contain the data to the computer system in accordance with the minimum order to establish a guaranteed quality of service QoS path between the wide area network and the local area network.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the routing device receiving a request for the data to be sent from the content provider to the computer system; and

the routing device embedding priority information in the data, wherein the priority information signals that the data is to be delivered to the computer system at a rate higher than the ~~requested guaranteed quality of service~~ minimum QoS.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
the routing device placing ~~the~~ packets containing the data to be sent to the computer system in a high priority queue; and
the routing device transmitting the packets in the high priority queue before transmitting packets in corresponding low priority queues.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
the routing device formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted in accordance with the minimum QoS, wherein said formatting further comprises inserting priority information into headers associated with the packets, wherein packets having headers with high priority information are transmitted before packets having headers with low priority information.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~receiving a signal indicating that the data is to be transferred at a guaranteed quality of service further comprises receiving a signal indicating~~ the received signal indicates that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a rate higher than a specified minimum rate.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a local area network, comprising:

receiving ~~the a packet of~~ data from the wide area network at a digital device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, wherein a header of the packet includes a first value indicating that a minimum quality of service (QoS) is being requested and a second value indicating the minimum QoS the data being destined for the computer system located on the local area network;

~~receiving a signal indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a rate higher than a specified minimum rate;~~

~~formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at the rate higher than the specified minimum rate; and~~

~~the device sending the packets that contain the data to the a computer system located in the local area network in accordance with the indicated minimum QoS order to establish a communication link between the wide area network and the local area network for transmitting data at the rate higher than the specified minimum rate;~~

~~wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing a standard session initiation between the digital device and the computer system.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A routing device system configured to for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a local area network, the routing device comprising:

a memory having program instructions stored therein that are executable by the routing device to:

a network control system server configured to send a guaranteed quality of service signal to a digital device that is attached to the local area network, wherein the digital device is operable in one mode of operation to:

receive data destined for the computer system from a content provider over via the wide area network, wherein the content provider is configured to transmit the data is destined for the computer system;

receive a signal, separate from the received data, indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a minimum quality of service(QoS);

receive the guaranteed quality of service signal from the network control system server, wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal specifies a guaranteed quality of service;

initiate a QoS session between the routing device and the computer system in response to receiving the signal; and

format the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted over the local area network at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and

send the data to the computer system in accordance with the minimum QoS order to establish a guaranteed quality of service path between the wide area network and the local area network.

9. (Currently Amended) The system routing device of claim 8, wherein the wide area network is ~~one of~~ a circuit-switched or public switched telephone network infrastructure (PSTN).

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ routing device of claim 9, wherein the signal is received from a network control system server, and wherein the routing device is configured to participate in a separate QoS session ~~is configured to establish a dedicated communication route~~ between the content provider and the digital routing device through the circuit-switched infrastructure wide area network based on the minimum QoS a desired guaranteed quality of service over the WAN and the respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the content provider and the computer system.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ routing device of claim 8, wherein the wide area network is ~~one of~~ a circuit-switched or packet-switched ~~public or private~~ network infrastructure.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ routing device of claim 11, wherein the signal is received from a network control system server, and wherein the routing device is configured to participate in a separate QoS session ~~is configured to establish a dedicated communication route~~ between the content provider and the digital routing device through the ~~circuit-switched or packet-switched infrastructure~~ wide area network based on the minimum QoS a desired guaranteed quality of service over the WAN and the respective IP addresses of the content provider and the computer system.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An article of manufacture including a computer readable medium program storage device encoded with having program instructions stored thereon that, when if executed by a computer device, transfers data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a local area network, cause the device to perform a method comprising:~~

~~receiving the a packet of data from the a wide area network at a digital the device, wherein the device that is connected to both the wide area network and the a local area network, wherein a header of the packet includes a first value indicating that a minimum quality of service (QoS) is being requested and a second value indicating the minimum QoS the data being destined for a computer system attached to the local area network;~~

~~receiving a signal, separate from the received data, indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a guaranteed quality of service, wherein the signal is received from a network control system server and the data is received from a content provider, separate from the network control system server, on the wide area network;~~

~~formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and~~

~~the device sending the packets that contain the data to the a computer system located in the local area network in accordance with the indicated minimum QoS order to establish a guaranteed quality of service path between the wide area network and the local area network.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor and configured to store program instructions executable by the processor to:

receive a packet of data sent to a computer from a content provider, wherein the content provider is on a wide area network, wherein the computer is on a local area network, and wherein a header of the packet includes a first value indicating that a minimum quality of service (QoS) is being requested and a second value indicating the minimum QoS~~the wide area network is communicably coupled to the local area network through the system;~~

receive a guaranteed quality of service signal from a network control system server on the wide area network, wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal specifies a guaranteed quality of service, and wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal is received by the system prior to the system receiving the data;

in response to receiving the guaranteed quality of service signal from the network control system server, format the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted over the local area network at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and

establish a communication link between the wide area network and the local area network by send[[ing]] the packet data to the computer in accordance with the indicated minimum QoS at the specified guaranteed quality of service.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the program instructions are further executable to initiate a QoS session in response to receiving the packet~~establishing the communication link comprises establishing a session between the system and the computer.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17[[15]], wherein the system is configured to participate in a separate QoS session~~establishing the communication link comprises establishing over a circuit switched communication path between the system and the computer content provider, wherein the separate QoS session is based on the indicated minimum QoS.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17[[15]], wherein ~~establishing the communication link comprises the system communicating with the computer~~ the QoS session uses[ing] Ethernet-defined quality of service mechanisms.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17[[15]], wherein the system is configured to participate in a separate QoS session over a packet switched communication path between the system and the content provider, wherein the separate QoS session is based on the indicated minimum QoS ~~the content provider is operable to send a request to the network control system server for the guaranteed quality of service for data sent by the content provider to the computer through the system.~~
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the data sent to the computer from the content provider is streamed audio and video.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the device initiating a QoS session between the device and the computer system in response to receiving the packet ~~wherein the standard session initiation comprises framing and quality of service at the MAC layer protocols.~~
24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the routing device participating in a separate QoS session over a path in the wide area network between a source of the packet and the device, wherein the separate QoS session is based on the indicated minimum QoS.
25. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises the device initiating a QoS session between the device and the computer system in response to receiving the packet.

26. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the device participating in a separate QoS session over a path in the wide area network between a source of the packet and the device, wherein the separate QoS session is based on the indicated minimum QoS.

27. (New) A method comprising:

a routing device receiving a set of data from a first computer system located in a first network, wherein the set of data is transmitted through the first network as part of a first quality of service (QoS) session between the routing device and the first computer system, wherein the received set of data is indicated as being destined for a second computer system located in a second network;

the routing device initiating a second QoS session between the routing device and the second computer system in response to receiving the set of data; and

the routing device sending the received set of data to the second computer system as part of the second QoS session.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first network is a wide area network, and wherein the second network is a local area network.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the first and second QoS sessions ensure that the set of data is transferred from the first computer to the second computer at a guaranteed level of average latency and a guaranteed level of latency variability.